

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Thursday, May 2. 1706.

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**A**fter the Digression of the last Paper, about the *Mine-Adventure*, I return to the Subject I was upon before, the Whisperings of those People, who, as Mr. *Stevens* well observ'd, love to give an ill turn to all our Publick Affairs.

The Suggestion I hinted in my last, was, that Emulation of Officers would prevent the Regular Proceedings of our Affairs, and that the Duke of *M.....b*, Jealous of the rising Glory of my Lord *P.....b*, would prevent such old Troops, and such Experienc'd Officers being sent thither, as the Case requir'd, and in particular would occasion our Preparations to be so backward, that in all probability, Affairs there would be brought to some Unhappy Extremity, before due care was taken of it.

Tho' there is no doubt, this Report and

these Whispers were rais'd among the People we talk of, as being the very General Abridgment of their common Discourse; I am sorry to say, that they made too much Impression upon some, who pretended great Zeal for the Publick Affairs, seem'd Anxiously Sollicitous for the Earl of *P.....b* and the *Spanish Expedition*, and Concern'd, for fear of a Blow on that side to our Affairs; others, whose Ignorance Entitled them to receive their Impressions from Vulgar Report, began to run away with this Story as direct Matter of Fact, and the Gentlemen on the other side falling in with it; I refer to common Knowledge, how general the Discourse was, and how eagerly Embrac'd by all People, that enter'd into the Discourse of these things.

Nor

Nor was the Duke of *M....* the only Person, but the whole Ministry were Represented as Careless in this Affair, as Influenc'd by My Lord *M....*, and In-gag'd both by Alliance and Party in his Measures; and thus, Gentlemen we see a Foundation laid, to have divided the whole Party, in Case the least Disaster had befallen the Earl of *P....*, to have set you together by the Ears among your selves, that upon these groundless Surmises, you might have been Jealous of one another, and so with the more ease have fall'n a Sacrifice to those, that watch for your halting.

I hope these Gentlemen, who have so long Murmur'd at me, for Repeating the most necessary History of our last Summer Struggle in the Nations Affairs, will now begin to see, what the Design of my doing so was, and what Necessity there was to present it compleat to your View, that being made all of all piece with the present Mannagement, the Peace of this Nation may be guarded by their watchfulness, as it was then to be recovered by their Diligence.

Wherefore I am very well content, to hear my self Charg'd with Unravelling my own Work, and pulling down what I built before, till the whole Scene is Finish'd, not at all doubting but those, *at least the well meaning among them*, who think so now, will have their Eyes open'd *with me*, to see the necessity of showing the World the Measures taken by the Enemies of our Peace to destroy it, as much as there was before, to show their Measures to prevent it.

If you Sleep, Gentlemen, assure your selves the other Gentlemen do not; if you are secure of your Peace, and think your selves safe, that your Point is gain'd, and the Danger over.

I pretend to assure you, the other People do not think so; I therefore cannot but think, that as 'tis their Maxim never to Despair, it ought to be the Maxim of every *English* Protestant, to be ever on his Guard for his Countries Good.

'Tis true, and God be Prais'd for it, the

Capital Design is broke, and the great Measures taken for the dividing and Ruining this Nation, receiv'd a Blessed Overthrow in the Union, and unlook'd for Conjunction of both Houses; the Cry of the Churches Danger is over, that great Party-Mine was sprung, without any Damage to the Fortifications of our Peace.

But, Gentlemen, is the Party Dead? Or have they yielded up the Cause? Will you quit your Conquest, and after the Battle Disband your Forces, and leave them in Arms? — Will you think all their future Attempts Insignificant? Will you depend upon their Incapacity to hurt you, and no more exert your Care? Will you slack your Watchfulness, and not endeavour to maintain the Ground you have fairly gain'd?

'Tis certain, the same Perswasions that were necessary to move you to Peace, are in all things as necessary to move you to preserve it; and this can never be, if you will shut your Eyes to the frequent Attempts of those, that are always Diligent to retrieve their Party, and as much as in them lies, overthrow that Union of Persons and Counsels, in which your present Safety consists.

Accept therefore, Gentlemen, needful Cautions from one, who, tho' not always careful to Please, was ever careful to Serve the General Peace, and never made the least offer to obstruct it.

In the frequent sad Occasions, you have to see your Houses and Streets on Fire in this City; I have observ'd when a Fire is down, *or as we say under Foot*, the Engines are it's true sent Home, and the People Dismiss'd, and the Water-Pipes stop'd — But you always take care to *watch the Ruines*, lest the subtle Enemy should creep into the Cellars, and secret Corners of the Adjacent heaps, and *break out afresh*.

This is the Subtance of the present Exhortation; the Fire of Contention is, *may God Almighty be duly Prais'd*, brought down *and under Foot*, and we are all very forward for sending home the Engines, nay, and as some did the *Dutch* formerly, without their Pay too; and which is worse, some Peoples Gratitude is so remarkable, they



they are for throwing *the very Engines, that help'd to quench it, into the Fire to be burnt*; but Pray, Gentlemen, whatever you do, **WATCH THE RUINES**; *Fire* is a subtle Element; *Contention* is a subtle Quality, and slyly insinuates it self into Men's Minds, Debauches the best Tempers, mingles with our Interest, our Opinions, our Friendships, and sometime with our Principles; this is the Fire we have been Quenching, and we have had it down and under Foot.

But what Incessant Endeavours, are there every Day discovered, among the very same People, to revive the Flame; What continual Efforts to divide your Interests, Expose your Governours, Misrepresent their Actions, Discontent the People, give Ill Turns to all the Publick Events, and Amuse the Ignorant? These are the Ruines of their Cause, in the Cavities whereof such secret Fires lurk, such Mischiefs are Conceal'd, that you cannot be too cautious or too wary to prevent the frequent breakings out of the Flame.

'Tis to this Caution I perswade, and I sincerely wish, the Effects may rather prove these Cautions Impertinent, than to hear you Acknowledge their needful and seasonable Import, under the Unhappy Effects of a Disappointment.

I proceed therefore to Expose and Discover as far as possible, all the Attempts of the present Malecontent Gentlemen, for this Reason, that People, seeing their Indefatigable Diligence, to Injure, Discourage, Defame, and Disappoint all Publick Proceedings, may be prepar'd not to receive undue Impressions from such Endeavours, tho' the Ends they wish for should come to pass. —

When I find some People uneasy at my looking back on these things, methinks they have forgot the Title of the Paper; *A Review, &c.* By which I understand, bringing things past to our Sight — But I am now upon the present, which perhaps may please some People as little.

The present Observation is the Diligence of some People, to give an Ill Turn to all Publick Affairs, suggesting the Jealousies,

Divisions, and Animosities, between Persons and Parties, which they would fain create; and my first Instance is with Relation to the Affair of *Spain*, and sending timely Succours to my Lord P. . . . b.

And here I would desire any considering Man to Examine two things.

1. The Design of these Reports.

2. The little Reason there is for them.

The Design is plainly made out in the early Improvement the Persons, who eagerly began them, made of the first Melancholy Accounts we had of the Preparations for the Siege of *Barcelona*.

The first Report rais'd upon this was, that we should not be time enough to Relieve them, and that we neglected them, and our Preparations were backward, and the like.

That when every Body was expecting the Fleet should Sail, and the Money being given, the Parliament was going Home; truly then, Sir *Cloudesley Shovel* laid the Naked State of Affairs before you, and you wanted 12000 Seamen.

Upon these Reports, who were the Complainers? Nothing was more plain, than that the Broachers of these Notions were principally such as were very well pleas'd with things being so, and wish'd us yet more backward, but the thing was exactly Calculated to the Event of things; that if a Miscarriage happen'd, they might most effectually have prepar'd a Charge against the Ministry, for neglecting the Affairs of *Spain*, in prejudice to my Lord P. . . . . b.

Can any Man be so blind in his Politicks, as not to see into the bottom of this? Is it possible this could be rais'd for any other End, than if possible to raise two Factions among the Whigs, and divide their Interest; to create Jealousies among the Friends of the Government, against the Management of Affairs, and against the Mannagers of them, and so if possible to remove the Men that have push'd things on with such Success both at Home and Abroad?

Let any Man Examine the frequent Assaults, made upon all our Active Men; how has the Duke of *Mariborough's* Conduct been.



been Scandalously Aspers'd, even the Victory he has Gain'd been Scandalously Sug- gested, as Designs to make his own Ad- vantage from *France*; Scandalous Absurdi- ty! And an evident Token of the poison'd Principles of those that advance such Hor- rid Amusements upon the World.

Had a Misfortune happen'd in *Cata- lonia*, as we know not yet how it is, what had been the Consequence of these things but this, an outcry of Negligence at Home, Mismannagement and Neglect; that the House and Interest of the Duke has Govern'd all, that he cares not for any Success he has not a hand in; that he has preserv'd the Flower of the Troops, and would not agree to needful Succours for the Relief of the *Spanish* Affair, only that he might En- grofs all the Glory to himself.

Then must have follow'd the Miserable Enquiry into the Miscarriages, and the Ad- visers of it, upon this Suggestion—And thus having divided our People and In- terests, the easie Conquest of the Party had been so plain a Conquest, that no Man who denies the probability can pre- tend to be Master of any Common Know- ledge.

I shall come in the next *Review* to Ex- amine the reasonableness of these Reports, and what Ground there is for them; from whence the Wickedness of the Design will yet farther appear.

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